

Proceedings of the meeting held at Mercara on 29th May at 5-30 P.

Members present : All present except Shri B.R. Kerkera

At the outset the Chairman said that, as the people were ~~happy~~ perhaps aware, the Govt. had appointed a Committee to examine tenancy and other allied matters. The Committee is touring in districts to study and ascertain public opinion. He would therefore welcome the views and suggestions from those who are present. He also requested to be excused for some delay due to car trouble on the way.

*Subbiah

The problem here is and has been one of dearth for tenants; otherwise there is no problem. Lands are not lying fallow. There can therefore be no question or problem of eviction or rackrenting of tenants. Instead the landlord has considerable difficulty in securing tenants.

Sri S.N.Thimmaiah
Retd. Dist.

Veterinary Officer.

There was no urgency for Mysore Govt. to introduce Tenancy Act here. There are no tenants in this district but they are only labourers. Hitherto we were all cultivators. Owners used to supervise and make the labourers work and take the produce. They are not recognised tenants but are mere labourers. The question of relationship between the tenant and landowner did not therefore arise in Coorg.

The Chairman then explained the main points on which the Committee would like to have the views of the people. It was however pointed out by some persons present that they had already formed a Committee for the purpose and that their considered views would be submitted after the Committee held a meeting and discussed the matters in details. The Chairman agreed to this; but suggested that at the moment he would like to know their mind and have their individual views and that their formal replies to Headquarters may be sent later.

Sri A.C.
Thimmiah

The landlord pays assessment to the Government. He also ensures that there is improvement in the land. He also estimates requirements of seeds and houses etc., Unfortunately the tenants have no resources. 1/3 of the produce goes to the cultivator and 2/3 to the owner.

In the meanwhile the Chairman explained the rayatwari system as it prevailed in Bombay State. Sri A.C. Thimmiah also said that the tenant should not be made a victim of anything drastic in the Act.

Sri P. Billappa,
ex-M.L.A.

Most of the landlords here are themselves tenants and they exercise a close supervision on the cultivation of their lands.

Sri N.C.
Subbiah

There were 2 rental systems here, namely, guthavaram and samawaram. When it is guthavaru, a fixed rent, no commitment devolves on the part of the landlord. The tenant has to fulfil all the conditions of the tenancy.

Sri Rama-
murthy

He said that the tenant must be given 2/3 and landlord 1/3 as the landlord does not supply anything. Sri Hiremat intervened and said that in Bombay State all the expenditure and everything was borne by the tenant. The landowner should accordingly get 1/3 and the tenant 2/3. Sri Ramamurthy said that damages if any to the land was to be made good by the landlord. Especially the paddy fields are likely to be damaged.

Shri Subbiah, Retd. Assistant Commissioner, said that a minimum ceiling should be fixed. According to him the tenancy problem has never been acute in Coorg. There was no Tenancy Act at all in force here as it was in other parts of the country. They would therefore give their considered views after the meeting of the General Body which had been formed for the purpose.

Sri K.G. Belliappa

He requested the Chairman to explain the provisions of Tenancy Act which was in operation in Bombay State. The Chairman then explained the salient points of the Bombay Tenancy Act. Sri Belliappa said that here there was no dry cultivation except coffee, pepper and paddy.

Sri Ramamurthy

In Coorg, we grow only one crop for the year. We have decided to give our considered opinion jointly. In other parts of the country there are more than one crop taken.

in the year. Here we want 1/3 share of the produce.

Sri Hiremath then explained some points about the working of the Tenancy Act in Bombay State. He also said that 1/6th of the produce was paid to the landlord by the tenant there.

Ramamurthy It may not be possible in the beginning for the tenant to bear all expenses of cultivation without assistance from the landlord. Government must make credit facilities available to the tenants.

A. Belliappa, ex-M.L.A. Crop experiments should be conducted. Though the Govt. expects the crop, it does nothing to assist the tenant.

Sri K.K. Belliappa Coorg should be exempted from the Tenancy Law. 40% of the crop share as provided in the Madras Act should be given to the landlord. Shri Belliappa explained that in other parts of the State there are more than one crop. The Tenancy Acts varied from place to place.

The Chairman asked for views on the point of security of tenure. The Chairman explained the provisions of the Bombay Tenancy Act about the protected tenant and the ordinary tenant.

Sri B.A. Belliappa Sri Belliappa requested clarification as to what happened if a tenant failed to pay rent continuously for a period of 3 years. The Chairman explained that he could be evicted under the Bombay Act.

Sri B.I. Karumbiah Why only provisions of the Madras Act should be adopted? why not of Hyderabad or Bombay Acts?

The Chairman and Shri Hiremath said that it was for the people present to suggest to the Committee what they considered best. Sri Hiremath added that since we are going to have a common Act, it is for you to study the Acts prevailing in other parts of the country and give your suggestions. Then Sri A. Belliappa asked about the conditions of tenure and period prescribed in other parts of the country.

Sri B.A.Belliappa

When the conditions differ from area to area, there can be no uniform legislation. The Chairman observed that it may be uniform on the general points.

Sri Ramamurthy

The period of ordinary tenancy should as in Mysore State be 5 years. The Chairman asked whether there should be any ceiling. Sri Ramamurthy said that tenant should not get more than 50 acres.

Sri M.C.Iyappa

There is no land or other kind of irrigation in Coorg. All the lands are rain fed.

The Chairman then read out the provisions of the Bombay Act relating to wet lands.

Sri Ramamurthy

He wanted to know the position about the ceiling in the case of a family consisting of more than 5 members.

The Chairman explained the position of ceiling in Bombay.

Sri S.M.Thammiah

Asked what would happen to the people having lands in Coorg but who were away from Coorg. Any absentee landlord should continue to hold it.

Sri Ramamurthy

The maximum holding of wet area is only 250 acres and that owners of wet lands were very few.

Sri M.R. Patil

What should be the maximum acreage of paddy land which a family consisting of 5 members can cultivate with a pair of bullock.

Sri Belliappa
ex-M.L.A.

Only 3 or 4 acres of paddy lands can be cultivated by such a family.

Sri Subbiah

There are no landowners having more than 250 acres of paddy land for cultivation in Coorg.